

## Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 11805 ACTION SECSTATE INFO GEORGETOWN  
29 JUL 76

QUOTE UNCLAS LONDON 11805

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SDPN, US

SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON GENERALIZED SYSTEMS OF PREFERENCES

1. THE COMMONWEALTH FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION (CFTC) OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT PLANS TO CONDUCT A SEMINAR ON GENERALIZED SYSTEMS OF PREFERENCES IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA NOVEMBER 3-10 AND HAS ASKED IF THE USG COULD PROVIDE A SPEAKER ON NOVEMBER 5 TO DISCUSS THE U.S. GSP. THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT IS LOCATED IN LONDON AND IS AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY WHICH PROVIDES SECRETARIAT SERVICES TO THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS.

2. THE CFTC IS ORGANIZING THE SEMINAR IN COLLABORATION WITH UNCTAD, AND IT IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN. IT IS DESIGNED FOR SENIOR-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE OPERATION OF THE GSP IN THEIR COUNTRY AND FOR EXECUTIVES OF SENIOR RANK IN PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS

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TIVES OF SENIOR RANK IN PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

3. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR ARE:

(A) TO PROVIDE DETAILED AND CURRENT INFORMATION ON THE DIFFERENT GSPS, INCLUDING THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION;

(B) TO DISCUSS PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES' EXPERIENCES WITH THE OPERATION OF GSP IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY DIFFICULTIES; AND;

(C) TO STUDY WAYS OF INSURING THE CONTINUED SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF THE SYSTEMS.

4. THE CFTC ASKS WHETHER THE USG WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A SPEAKER ON NOVEMBER 5 TO GIVE A LECTURE WHICH WOULD COVER THE OPERATION OF THE U.S. GSP SCHEME, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN. THE SPEAKER SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO TAKE PART IN DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING THE SPEECH. CFTC REQUESTS THAT THE SPEAKER BE A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE FROM A DEPARTMENT CONCERNED WITH THE OPERATION OF THE GSP. ANY SPEAKER THE USG COULD MAKE AVAILABLE WOULD HAVE TO BE AT NO COST RPT NO COST TO THE CFTC.

5. COMMENT. FROM EMBASSY'S PERSPECTIVE, IT SEEMS THAT THIS INVITATION PROVIDES A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OR OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO EXPLAIN AND PUBLICIZE OUR GSP. CFTC WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE AT OUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

ARMSTRONG

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